



Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: February 19th, 2020

Time: 7:15PM

Location: 1st floor conference room

Attendees: *Executive committee*: Christopher Tonkin (chair), Doug Greenfield, Jack Johnson, Muris Kobaslija, Adam MacNeill, Doug Mayo-Wells, Scott Smith
Town of Arlington: Daniel Amstutz, Michael Rademacher

Rod Holland, Stephan Miller, Steve Revilak (Town Meeting, precinct 1)

1. Greetings and introductions

2. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of January 15th, 2020.

Daniel submitted written comments

Doug M will send revised draft

Stephan has 10-15 years of archived minutes up til 2014? [not available on website]

3. Report from COBWEB officer.

Nothing to report

4. Liaison with DPW for upcoming road work etc.

(moved this item ahead in agenda because Michael Rademacher was in attendance)

Bikeway tree cleanup being planned

want to keep clear for plows

cut back vegetation, take out small saplings, remove deadwood

Will break bikepath into 4 sections, starting first week of March

close and detour for a week - 3 crews per section

may be able to reopen in less than a week

but will keep to schedule

work scheduled between 9am-2pm so bikepath is available for commuters

permits have been secured

police detail will be placed at end of the closed sections, maybe in the middle too
working on signage for detours

Root removal is not included in this cleanup

ABAC suggest for additional consideration:

- Adding a sharrow (shared lane marking) just beyond Swan Pl for eastbound bike traffic?
& in front of Cambridge bank?
- Eastbound past the fire station on Mass Ave - road condition is bad - right before Franklin in particular there is a large sunken manhole cover
- Bridge over the creek, where the bollards were -
Daniel has been researching jurisdiction of bridge with Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Department of Transportation (DoT), still tracking down
Per 1996 docs the bridge is fully in Town and the (physical) dividing line on the path is accurate
However the bridge appears to be in MBTA property
Might be District 4 state or federal funding available for repair
Jeff Rikeman (Public works/Highway division) may be planning to replace bollards?
- Wayne Chouinard (Town Engineer) at Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
meeting had mentioned Mass Ave resurfacing from Medford St to Pond Lane & from Mill St to Library Way (the former Mass Ave Phase II)
Mike Rademacher can see when it's in the schedule - can mill a patch where bikelane would be
Did not have funding for original plan
Doing piecemeal w/o changing curb lanes
This spring, upcoming construction season sidewalk repair planned for Pleasant / Franklin
- MBTA will be doing pipe work under Broadway plaza next year
So MBTA will do some resurfacing work
- Mass Ave from Pleasant St to Jason might qualify more readily for Mass DoT funding
- Bikeway in heights - not many access points
at Bow St by Craig's landscaping - apparently pre-railroad, Bow St used to cross where the bikeway is now. Bikeway RR crossing right of way is owned by the Town, as wide as street - so fences are likely encroaching
Curb cut, repair to paved section would be in town property
Also some snow removal problems on Mill St side
- On bike path before Lake St/Spy Pond - has puddling gotten better after catch basin work?
Yes, committee members have observed improvement

5. TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) report.

TAC held social last week

Considering Summer, Chestnut, Pleasant, Grove -3yr time horizon for repaving

Lake St contract awarded, summer 2020 construction

- Will have a signal
- Widening still in plan
- Missing lighting and conduit for lighting (saving 150K-200K)
- plan is to not close completely during construction but have 8ft open so ppl can get by -- narrowed for 8 weeks between June and September

6. Report of recent pedestrian injury on the Bikeway in Arlington.

Verbal report:

- elderly woman walking on bikeway with companion
- 7 yr old child on bike, trying to pass, swerved back (cause not clear) and struck woman, who was knocked over, and sustained minor injuries
- call from husband and victim expressing concerns about conflict on bikeway
- have asked for police reports, but have not yet received

wider question of how to encourage good behavior

more riding (experience) helps

passing behavior is a concern with both motorists and cyclists

7. Arlington High School rebuild: report from the latest meeting.

focused on construction logistics, nothing bike related to report

8. Sustainable Transportation Plan: anything new?

scheduling next meeting now

9. Application for CPA funds to study the Bikeway, and CPA projects.

Daniel presented to CPAC (Community Preservation Act Committee); many questions

Bikeway planning project is new foray for committee

Received call from James Feeney (Town Manager's office) - with request for more detail about project, phasing. Expressed uncertainty on what the Town would get out of the project, can't predict committee vote

Received email from committee member Charlie McCabe - keen on CPA projects related to bikeway, funding for connector to HS. Plans to attend next ABAC meeting. Would be good to work w/ him to develop ideas that will be easy to sell to committee (e.g., infrastructure projects)

- maybe lights?

- Spy pond dredging - bike path by Spy pond,
- better signage would be helpful
- better connection (to other bike routes) at either end of Bikeway - may be jurisdiction issues there as well

10. Warrant Article for the removal or changing of the Bikeway hours, report.

Police department supports bikeway operational hours from 5am - 11pm year round, may revisit in 6 months to a year

Some question about the approval process. Generally the Bikeway is under the jurisdiction of Town Manager, but operating hours are established by a bylaw (requires Town Meeting to change).

Adam MacNeill's understanding, without talking to counsel:

- Select Board voted to pass to Town Meeting if required, otherwise approve as-is
- Adam will try to put the warrant article on the Town Meeting consent agenda

11. Doug G's interactive map. Linking to Town's website

Email from Adam Kurowski in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) office

They want to redo the map using the PeopleGIS/MapsOnline tools used for the other maps on the Town website. Concerned about issues with enabling additional plugins/features on the web server.

Survey of bike parking in Town

12. ABAC Retreat part 2: planning

March 7th - Jefferson Cutter house has been booked

David C will facilitate

Christopher will post agenda, solicit input. Topics to include

- How can ABAC support town transportation goals
- How to prioritize ABAC agenda

Adam will contact Mary Mazinka for pizza money

Sustainable Transportation Plan Committee is planning focus groups centered on needs of low-income residents, Disability Commission

- More substantial, big-picture ideas
- Plan will need to be far reaching, aggressive, coexists with Clean Energy Futures committee greenhouse gas goals (40% of CO² transportation emission is in-state)
- Dealing with fossil fuel ban
- Scope includes protected bike lanes, bike boulevards

13. Bike Friendly Community renewal

Daniel working on the application, there are 5 sections: engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation and planning

Some need research

Maybe divvy up pieces, to see if gut-check is favorable (for Silver vs current Bronze status)

14. Bike Share updates

Heard from state that application for Workforce Transportation Grant application was successful
Still details to workout with MassDOT, procurement w/ Blue Bikes, Lyft (owner of Motivate, which operates Blue Bikes)

Warrant article put forward to Town Meeting for \$100K funding for bike share program

Cost is \$200K for 5 stations w/10 docks each, Lyft is subsidizing 50%

Has been through finance committee & capital planning committee

Still need funding (~20K\$) to match the Workforce Transportation Grant

Have applied through Metropolitan Planning Organization for 2nd grant (Community Connections); should hear status by March (Transportation Improvement Program has to be complete by May)

Approval of a 2nd grant could potentially expand beyond the first 5 Blue Bikes stations

However, funding won't be available until 2021FY (i.e, July) - would not see stations on the ground until fall. May need to remove some parking spaces to accommodate docks.

Bike utilization research can be a hedge against potential objections (to losing parking spaces)

Potentially costs the Town less than MBTA subsidies

Need to understand the effect of bike share on businesses - losing parking spaces, but getting bike parkers. Net growth?

Blue Bikes has feature for users to suggest a dock location (although it may have been removed, or made less prominent?)

Docks need to be proximate to Somerville, Cambridge stations

For the Community Connections grant, proposed 1 near Thorndike, 1 near Linwood, 1 near Swan Place, 1 at Capitol Square, 1 at Broadway/Everett

Green line is coming too (may influence placement of future docks)

15. Annual Social: venue and topic, further thoughts?

David sent budget for food, menu, Mar 31

Theme is "Daily bicycling"

Daniel will give an intro, plug the sustainable transportation forum.; Carice Reddien, owner of Bicycle Belle, bring demo, Muris w will bring photos etc

Jack will write up the event and create a PDF flyer

16. "Touch a Bike" event. - invite vendors

Envisioned as "bike petting zoo" - hold in May, June?

Can look at cargo bikes, ride around a bit

Yuba Bikes did a demo with Wheelworks

Possibly host at St. Camillus Parish (formerly hosted a touch-a-truck event)

Also might consider Lahey Clinic lot, Hurd Field lot, Hardy School lot, or the Rec center

17. Dredging of Spy Pond and related bike path closures

Will post closure dates on FaceBook etc

dates may not be finalized – need to double check

18. Other business?

Memorial bench for accident victim Gary Coovert in Lexington

Friends of Lexington Bikeway are soliciting contributions

Should ABAC contribute ?

Tri Town meeting

Arlington's turn to host - Christopher will email to start scheduling

Bedford trail extension should be a topic

Annual clean up - Plan for March/April

"Motherload" is a 90-min documentary film about the cargo bike movement. Could show at the Brattle or Kendall theater. Flexible pricing depending on audience size. Peggy \$130 to show to 50 ppl, much more \$ in theatre - Peggy Enders in Lexington was pursuing a screening

Ecofest is Mar 21 - theme is "climate resilience" - should ABAC present?

If we are asked maybe; March is already pretty busy

Also Ecoweeek is last week of April

Agenda item for next meeting - Manual count in May

There are problems with the automated counter - replacement part should be installed w/in a few weeks

Should discuss where else to count, e.g., Mass Ave vs Minutemen

(Adjourned)